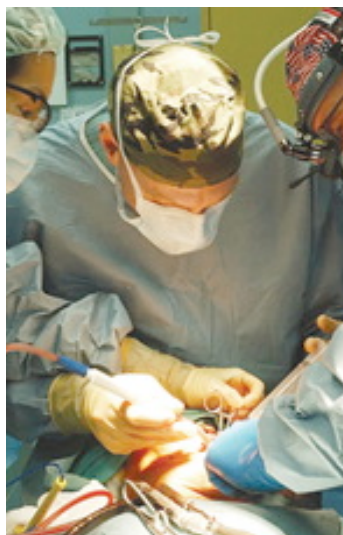


## In this week's Kukini



■ 'Wounded Warrior Diaries' program tells tales of courage and patriotism **A3**

## News Notes

### Annual Cookie Caper

Volunteers are invited to bake holiday cookies for Airmen living away from their families to brighten their holiday season! The drop-off date is Wednesday from 7 to 10 a.m. at the Daedalian Room, between the Hickam Officers Club and the Wright Bros. Café. Cookies may also be dropped Tuesday night at the Robinson home at 107 3rd St., or the Mellars home at 208 Signer Blvd. Team Hickam members may also volunteer their time on Wednesday to package cookies at the Daedalian Room between 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information or to RSVP, call Mrs. Robinson at 744-2785.

### Valor to Victory ceremony

— Col. Giovanni K. Tuck, 15th Airlift Wing commander, invites all Team Hickam members and their guests to attend the 67th Remembrance Ceremony Commemorating the Attack on Hickam Field, beginning at 7:55 a.m. next Sunday, Dec. 7, at Atterbury Memorial Park. All are welcome. Military members should wear Uniform of the Day; civilians, aloha attire.

**Commander's Call cancelled** — The 15th Airlift Wing Commander's Call scheduled for next Friday has been cancelled. For more information, call Capt. Grimmett at 449-1524.

**Fueling GSA vehicles on Hickam** — The users of approximately 350 GSA vehicles on Hickam will no longer be able to obtain fuel at AAFES service stations beginning tomorrow and continuing through Jan. 4, 2009. Users can refer to the following URL address for Oahu service stations that will accept the Wright Express Universal Fleet Card: [www2.hickam.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-081126-049.pdf](http://www2.hickam.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-081126-049.pdf). For details, call Roger Storman at 448-1506.

**Enlisted Club closure notice** — The Enlisted Club will be closed for lunch today in observance of Family Day. The club will open today at

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<b>Services</b>	<b>B2</b>
<b>Crossword</b>	<b>B3</b>
<b>Sudoku</b>	<b>B3</b>
<b>Hickam History</b>	<b>B3</b>
<b>Movies</b>	<b>B4</b>
<b>Classifieds</b>	<b>B5-8</b>

# Get this party started!

## Colonel Tuck to throw the Freedom Tower switch tonight

By Jeff Nicolay  
Hickam Kukini editor

Forget yesterday's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade ... Forget the madness of the first day of Christmas shopping that kicked off at oh-dark-thirty this morning ... The holiday season doesn't officially begin on base until Team Hickam flips the switch on this afternoon's Freedom Tower Lighting Ceremony at Freedom Tower Mall.

For Frank Faria, 15th Services Squadron deputy commander, the annual event is a base tradition that brings out the best in Team Hickam.

"The Tower Lighting ceremony brings out the holiday spirit to everyone who comes out to watch," he said. "It's just a joyous occasion for everybody — we're really looking forward to tonight."

This year, the popular (and free) event kicks off today at 4:30 p.m. with entertainment for the whole family, including entertainment from the Hickam Youth Center and the winners of the Family & Teen Talent Contest, plus food booths, bounce houses and games for the kids.

Mr. Faria said Pacific Air Forces' Band of the Pacific, Hana Hou, is scheduled to take the Freedom Tower Mall stage at 6 p.m. for a quick opening set, followed by invocation by Lt. Col. Stephen Voyt, 15th Airlift Wing chaplain, and opening remarks by Col. Giovanni K. Tuck, 15 AW/CC.

Those presentations will be followed by a brief salute to the Holiday Tower Lighting Essay Contest win-

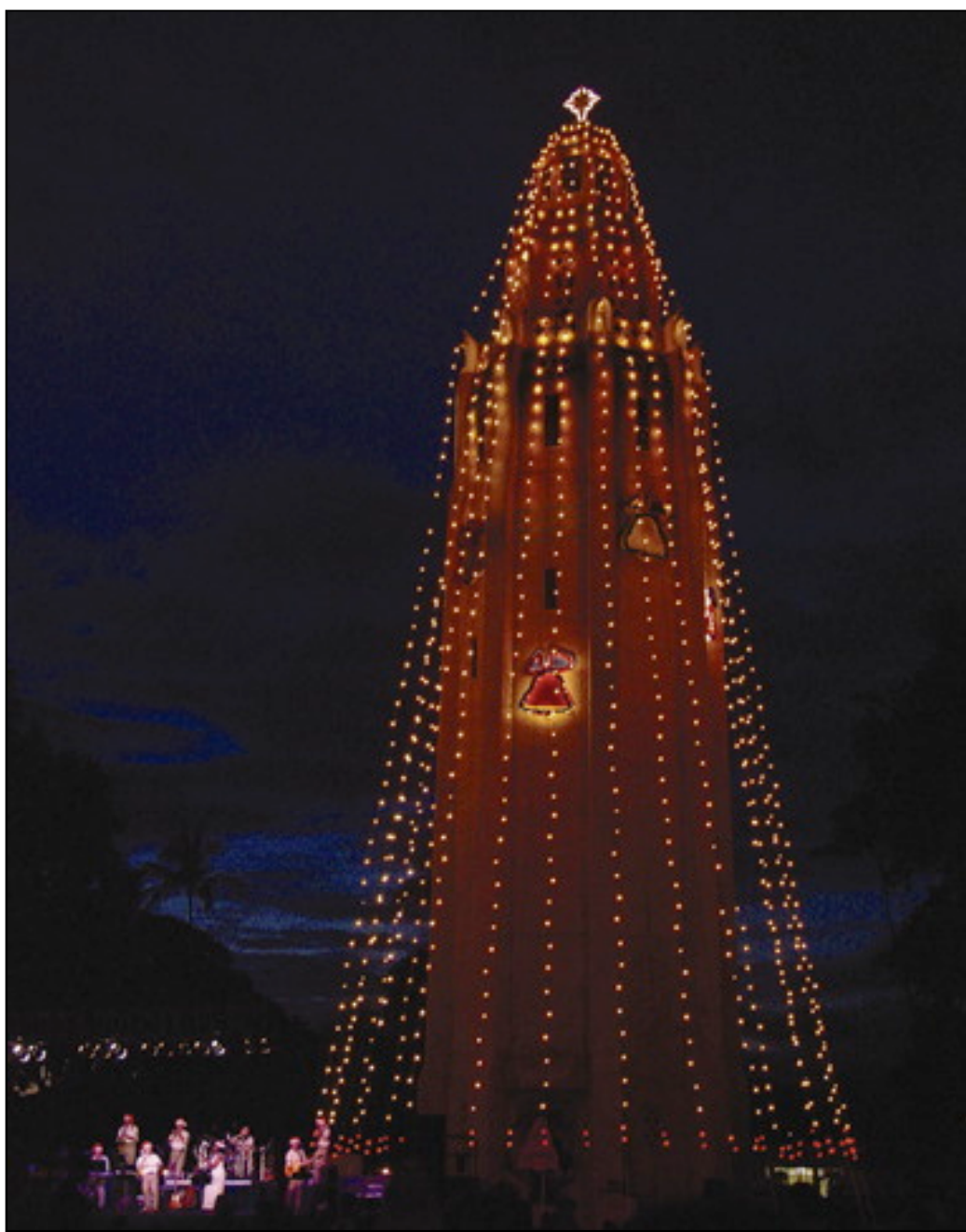


Photo courtesy of 15th Services Squadron Marketing

**Col. Giovanni K. Tuck, 15th Airlift Wing commander, is scheduled to throw the switch on the 2008 Freedom Tower Lighting Ceremony tonight a little after 6 o'clock. The annual event includes free food, fun and entertainment for the entire family.**

ners and a reading by the top essay writer.

Darlene Johnson, Makai Recreation Center Special Events director, said students

submitted essays on the subject of "My Favorite Holiday Tradition Is ..."

"Once again, we have four age categories in the contest

— age 6 and ages 7-9, 10-12 and 13-15, plus an overall winner who will take home a \$50 AAFES gift certificate," she said. "To me, one of the

most meaningful parts of the lighting ceremony is hearing the pride in the voice of that contest winner when he or she gets to read their essay to the audience. Then, they get to assist the wing commander in pulling the 'candy cane' lever to light up the tower."

That critical flow of electrons is scheduled to take place a little before 6:15 p.m..

"It's really an awesome sight," said Mr. Faria. "Then, after we've ushered in the holiday season with the tower light, Hana Hou will follow up with some holiday music and to get the party going full steam."

While their parents are enjoying the music — and oohing and aahing over the holiday lights, children are apt to be on the lookout for a certain scheduled visitor.

"Santa Claus will be showing up not long after the lights come on," said Mr. Faria. "The cue will be the song 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town,' at which point the Hickam Fire Department is going to drive up with Santa and four elves."

He added that while Kris Kringle and his elves make their rounds with Team Hickam's younger set and pose for photos, the rest of the crowd — estimated to number more than 1,500 this year — will be treated to a performance by the Radford High School Polynesian Dancers.

"These kids are really talented," he said, "and they're just a part of a whole evening of fun and entertainment to help Hickam usher in the holiday season. Tonight's going to be a very special night and I encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the show."

# Seventh Air Force officials welcome new commander

By Staff Sgt.  
Candy Knight  
51st Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea (AFNS) — The leadership of 7th Air Force changed hands during a change-of-command ceremony here last Friday.

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey A. Remington assumed command from Lt. Gen. Stephen G. Wood as Army Gen. Walter Sharp, the U.S. Forces Korea commander, and Gen. Carrol H. "Howie" Chandler, the Pacific Air Forces commander, presided over the ceremony.

In addition to commanding the 7th Air Force, General Remington also serves as the United Nations Command deputy commander, USFK deputy commander and its Air Component Command commander.

"Our goals are simple," said General Remington to the 7th Air Force members during the ceremony. "We



Photo by Senior Airman Christopher Boltz t

**Lt. Gen. Jeffrey A. Remington (right) accepts command of the 7th Air Force from Gen. Carrol H. "Howie" Chandler, Pacific Air Forces commander, during a change-of-command ceremony Nov. 24 at Osan Air Base, South Korea.**

will provide warfighting forces that support the goals and mission of the Combined Forces Command. These forces will provide reliable, precise and overwhelming fire power to protect the Korean peninsula ... ready to fight and win tonight!"

The general also said he

plans to work hard to ensure 7 AF remains a good neighbor to the South Korean people and keep a strong alliance with the South Korean military to remain a strong deterrent.

"We will continue to strengthen the alliance and support our hosts by promoting

regional stability while continuing to refine our path toward the transfer of operational control," he said. "This historic transformation will strengthen our alliance and demonstrate to the world the capabilities and trust between our two great democracies."

# SECAF: Nation should lead in space

By Senior Master Sgt.  
Matt Proietti  
Defense Media Activity  
— San Antonio

LOS ANGELES (AFNS) — Solid leadership and the coordination of resources will enable the United States to retain its leadership in space, Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley said Nov. 21 during the Air Force Association's Global War Symposium in Los Angeles.

Strong government and collaboration among leaders also will be required, said Secretary Donley, who described Airmen as "the

See SPACE, **A6**



ACTION LINE

Fitness Center hours of operation

**Comment:** With the focus on personnel fitness throughout the Air Force, why is it that our base fitness center is not open 24hrs a day?

**Response:** Unfortunately our current manning authorization cannot support a 24-hour operation. We conducted a 24-hour trial operation in 2005 and found the average hourly usage between 2300 and 0500 was only two individuals. We will continue reevaluate the feasibility of extending our hours on a more permanent basis. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Fitness Center Director at 448-4641.

*The Action Line is your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. I urge you to use the normal chain of command first. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call. If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.*

Diamond Tips

**Personal grooming standards** – Men's and women's hair must:

- Be clean, well-groomed and neat
  - Look natural if dyed
  - Not contain excessive grooming aids
  - Not touch the eyebrows when groomed
  - Not protrude below the front band of properly worn headgear (except the women's flight cap)
  - Appear tapered with our without headgear (block cut permitted if tapered)
  - Not be worn in an extreme or fad style
  - Not exceed length or bulk standards nor violate safety requirements
  - Not touch the ears (only closely cut or shaved hair on the back may touch the collar)
  - Not exceed 1 inch in bulk, regardless of length
  - Not exceed 1 inch in length at the natural termination point
  - Not contain visible foreign items
- (Alternately, men may shave their head or have a military high-and-tight haircut.)

Women's hair must:

- Present a professional appearance
- Not be worn in an extreme or fad style
- Not violate safety requirements
- Not extend below the bottom edge of the collar
- Permit proper wear of headgear
- Not exceed 3 inches in bulk.

Women may wear conservative hair attachments in plain black or matching their hair color, but not ribbons or jeweled pins.

Unless men have a shaving waiver, sideburns will:

- Be neatly trimmed and tapered
- Be straight and of even width (not flared)
- End in a clean-shaven horizontal line
- Not extend below the lowest part of the exterior ear opening.

Women's cosmetics and nail polish must be conservative and in good taste.

Fingernails must be clean, well-groomed and not interfere with safe duty performance.

Deadline for article submission is end of day Monday for Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300-500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

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Law Enforcement Desk ..... 449-6373  
Base Chaplain ..... 449-1754  
Military Family Abuse Shelter ..... 533-7125  
SARC Hotline ..... 449-7272

**Kukini:** Meaning swift and valued messenger, the Kukini in ancient times took news from one Hawaiian leader to another.

By Gen. Howie Chandler

Pacific Air Forces commander

As the holiday season brings 2008 to a close, I offer my sincere thanks to our entire Pacific Air Forces team — military, civilians and family members — who make this command a cornerstone of our nation's security in the Pacific. It's been a challenging year in PACAF and for our Air Force as we've worked every day to achieve the highest standards of excellence.

We've been to China twice to offer the helping hand of humanitarian aid, and we've delivered supplies to Burma following their devastating hit from Cyclone Sidr. We've provided medical care to the furthest reaches of this theater, and we've rescued countless injured



Gen. Howie Chandler

civilians from the waters of the Pacific to the ice sheets of Antarctica. We've trained with international partners at Red Flag-Alaska and during multiple bi-lateral exercises...and our senior officers and senior NCOs alike have engaged with their Chinese military

counterparts as we seek to better understand each other.

It's been a year of building bridges while maintaining responsive combat airpower. We've done all this with a focus on precision and reliability. That's what our nation expects — anything less would be unacceptable. It's remarkable how our

Airmen step up time and time again to prove that we are indeed the finest Air Force in the world.

During this holiday season, take extra time for two important responsibilities — taking care of ourselves and our families. As you celebrate with friends and family during the holidays, please take care of each other. The holiday season is a joyous time of year. Some, however, will spend the holidays far from home. In addition, please keep an eye out for your wingman — your efforts may prevent a needless accident or injury.

Eva-Marie and I thank you for what you do for our Air Force and keep all of you in our thoughts this holiday season. Be safe—your family, friends and Air Force need you back in 2009.

Kudos to 'these kids nowadays'

By Lt. Col. Al Bello

386th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander

"These kids nowadays." If I had a dime for every time I heard that cliché from my parents while growing up in the '60s and '70s, well, I'd have a bunch of dimes.

Of course, my parents weren't the first to use the phrase. It's been going on for centuries as a "catch all" when each generation finds it difficult to understand the motivations and unconventional behaviors of the next. Now that I'm no longer "cool," and the father of three children ranging in age from 14 to 24, I too have been guilty of using this phrase a time or two.

My children, and the majority of our young Airmen, are what the mainstream media calls Generation Y. Normally, researchers include those born between 1982 and 2001 in this group. Of course, we should never label a whole generation, but those from Generation Y are described in very general terms as being impatient, skeptical and expressive.

They're impatient because, after all, they've been raised in a world dominated by technology where instant gratification is just a text message or mouse click away. They tend to be a little skeptical of everything because while watching their televisions and surfing the net they've watched chief executive officers and other media stars cheat and scam their way to the top. Additionally, reality TV has taught them if you're loud and obnoxious enough, your 15 minutes of fame could last a lifetime. No wonder a parent might mutter "these kids nowadays" every now and then.

Surprisingly, even though I'm far away from my children right now and have no obvious reason to use it, I've said the cliché numerous times in my head almost every day since I arrived in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Interestingly, it hasn't been aimed at my children; it's been aimed at the many young Airmen I've met during my deployment. And the reason is simple; from what I've seen, these kids nowadays are really something special.

When I pull up to an entry control point and see an Airman standing in 120 degree heat wearing full body armor and projecting a professional attitude and image, I say to myself ... "these kids nowadays."

When I see an Airman working 12-hour shifts, six days a week, with uniforms covered in grease and hydraulic fluid, maintaining and producing mission capable aircraft at twice the rate of home station, I think ... "these kids nowadays."

When I watch Airmen load and unload thousands of tons of cargo, moving millions of passengers, providing first-class logistical support to all personnel in the AOR, I again think ... "these kids nowadays."

When I see an aircrew landing an aircraft 16 hours after they took off, completing their fifth or sixth sortie of the day, I mutter to myself ... "these kids nowadays."

When I see a team of Airmen leading and defending a three-mile long resupply convoy from one end of Iraq to the other, on the road for 15 straight days, I can't help but think ... "these kids nowadays."

And when I have the pleasure of re-enlisting an Airman who is performing his

third deployment in two years, knowing full well his fourth and fifth are right around the corner, I again say to myself ... "these kids nowadays."

Are you starting to get the picture? The fact is the young Airmen I encounter every day in the AOR are the best I've ever seen! Now, before all you other not-so-young Airmen start telling me I'm full of it, just stand fast for a moment.

I'm well aware that we, and Airmen like us, have been doing great things for a very long time. I enlisted in the Air Force in 1986, and have been inspired numerous times by the sacrifice and devotion to duty of countless officers and enlisted personnel during my 22 years. As our Airman's Creed says, we are faithful to a proud heritage, and we should be. However, I just can't help but feel there's something extraordinary about our young Airmen today. To me, what makes them extraordinary is when they decided to commit their lives to their country.

The fact is, most of our young Airmen decided to raise their right hand and defend the Constitution of the United States during a time of war. Not many of us older Airmen can say that. These young people knew up front what serving in the Air Force meant. It meant difficult and frequent deployments away from family and friends, yet they still raised their right hand and continue to do so today. I think it speaks volumes about their character and commitment to this country and our Air Force.

Is Generation Y impatient? Skeptical? Expressive? Maybe. But let me say this without hesitation: I'm extremely proud to serve with these kids nowadays!

What physical therapy can do for you

By Tech. Sgt. Dorian Chapman

17th Training Wing Public Affairs

All too often in modern-day life, we seek out the quick fix. And all too often, the quick fix saves time yet sacrifices quality.

When it comes to physical health, especially pain, most of us are guilty of seeking out the "magic pill" to make symptoms go away rather than concentrating on the problem generating the discomfort.

In 2007, I was tasked to deploy to Iraq. Coincidentally, I started experiencing severe pain in my hip, apparently sports related. Being the stubborn person that I am, I tried to ignore it and continued with my daily activities and physical training as best as I could.

As the pain worsened, I started to grow concerned. I had so much to do before my deployment; I just didn't have time for pain. I knew I would be attending the month-long Combat Skills Training Course hosted by the Army, and my concerns deepened about how I would be able to perform.

Then reality set in. I was due to deploy to Iraq with a high-speed Army special forces unit. My job was going to require that I stay on the go and be able to hold my own in a combat zone. It was time to stop popping ibuprofen and get some expert medical treatment.

After being evaluated by my primary care manager at the base clinic, I was referred to physical therapy.

"Oh great!" I remember thinking. "Voodoo medicine! Why can't they just

give me a pill to make this go away?"

The physical therapist at the medical clinic assessed my situation. Because I had waited so long, my condition worsened and the likelihood of regaining full mobility before my deployment was questionable. I was determined to deploy and, most important, be prepared to perform my duties. Since there seemed to be no "magic pill" this time, physical therapy became my only hope.

"I evaluate the client, diagnose the problem, then treat it," said Maj. Ana Hall, a 17th Medical Group physical therapist pointing out that physical therapy deals with sports and musculoskeletal injuries. "My job is to get you back to work."

As for the "magic pill," Major Hall said making the pain go away does not mean the problem is gone.

"When you have pain, something went wrong," she said, stressing the importance of focusing on the cause of the pain for successful treatment.



Photo by Senior Airman Luis Loza Gutierrez

**Capt. Lara Kalin-Cristofori undergoes physical therapy via ultrasound at the 17th Medical Group Clinic at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.**



# DOD launches ‘Wounded Warrior Diaries’ program

By Navy Lt. Jennifer Cragg  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — Defense Department officials have created “Wounded Warrior Diaries,” an online multimedia Web tribute in which American servicemembers wounded in combat share stories of their service, including their hard-won battles on the road to recovery and the ups and downs of life in the wake of injury.

The Wounded Warrior Diaries, launched Nov. 19, feature videos of servicemembers relaying their stories in their own words. The videos are accompanied by a written account of their experiences. The site kicked off with four diaries, and a new diary will be added each month.

“The diaries are intended to be sources of strength, encouragement and reassurance for other wounded troops and their families,” said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brook DeWalt, DOD’s director of new media. “They illustrate the ultimate triumph over injury — returning to full and active lives through hard work and the support of loved ones, the community and the military family.”

In addition, the process of creating the diaries is meant to be therapeutic for the servicemembers, Commander DeWalt said, noting that in some cases, their spouses and children take part in the interviews.

“Finally,” he added, “the diaries are creat-



U.S. Navy photo

**The DOD’s new ‘Wounded Warriors Diary’ program features videos of servicemembers telling their own stories. The site kicked off Nov. 19 with four diaries. Plans are for a new diary to be added each week.**

ed to honor the service, sacrifice, courage and determination of all who voluntarily serve in harm’s way.”

This month’s launch of the Wounded Warrior Diaries is part of DOD’s Warrior

Care Month, which has been going on throughout the month of November.

The ‘Wounded Warrior Diaries’ Web address is [http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2008/0908\\_wwd/index.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2008/0908_wwd/index.html).

## Rare bird appears on Hickam flightline



Photo by Vanessa Perez

**Capt. Mark Pindar, 23rd Bomb Squadron (center), discusses the history and some of the capabilities of the B-52 Stratofortress that dropped in last weekend with a group of curious Team Hickam members. The captain was one of 10 Airmen led by Col. Parker Northrup III, 5th Operations Group commander, who were transitting Hickam en route from Minot AFB, N. Dak., to Andersen AFB, Guam.**

Crime Scene

Damage to gov't property

A civilian assigned to 15 MXS reported damage to government property from Bldg. 3510/ Munitions Storage. The case is currently under investigation.

Damage to personal property

The spouse of E-6 assigned to 15 COMM reported damage to personal property on Gemini Avenue. The case is currently under investigation.

Damage to personal property

The spouse of an E-6 assigned to 15 MSS reported damage to personal property from Bldg. 1232/ BX parking lot. The case is currently under investigation.

Damage to personal property

An active-duty E-6 assigned to 15 SVS reported damage to

personal property on 19th Street. The case is currently under investigation.

Shoplifting

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed the child of a Sailor attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$104.87 without rendering payment. The individual will have his/her AAFES privileges revoked for one year and is awaiting a magistrate hearing.

DUI

A civilian detained on Main Gate/Bldg. 188 for operating a vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant which resulted with a Blood Alcohol Content of 0.260. This case is being forwarded to Administrative Driver's License Revocation Office.

Citation total for the week

- 9 Civilian traffic citations
- 31 Moving traffic citations
- 6 Non-moving traffic citations
- 2 Abandoned vehicle notices.



Change of scenery for Hickam Airman



Airman 1st Class Jimpaul Cortez uses a lever to control the water flow while Airman 1st Class Ricky Froneberger secures the hose connection to refill a restroom facility water tank Nov. 23, at an undisclosed air base in Southwest Asia. Both are utilities system apprentices assigned to the 379th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. Utilities apprentices ensure clean water is available for deployed members to maintain personal hygiene. Airman Cortez, a native of San Diego, Calif., is deployed from Hickam AFB, and Airman Froneberger, a native of Winston-Salem, N.C., is deployed from Ramstein AB, Germany.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Darnell T. Cannady

News Notes

Continued from Page A1

4:30 p.m. For more information, call 448-2271.

**Women's History Month meeting** — Please join the next Women's History Month meetings on Tuesday, Dec. 9, starting at 11:30 a.m. at JR Rockers. We need volunteers to help make this year's events a success! Military members, DoD civilians, dependents and

contractors are welcome. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Lisa Boothe at 449-8504 or the Equal Opportunity office at 449-1701.

**Mandatory flu shot** — If you haven't received our flu shot yet, you can also take advantage of upcoming flu shot clinics at base exchanges in addition to visiting the 15 MDG. These events run from 9 a.m. to 2

p.m. and are open to DOD personnel and beneficiaries. The dates and locations are as follows: tomorrow and Thursday at the NEX, Pearl Harbor; next Friday at the Schofield PX; Saturday, Dec. 13, at the NEX, Pearl Harbor; Friday, Dec. 19, at the Hickam BX; and Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Exchange. For more information, call 448-6141.

**Volunteers needed** — The Airman & Family Readiness Center (AFRC) is looking for volunteers to serve as family escorts and interpreters during the Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) exercise during the week of Dec. 8. If you are interested in volunteering, please attend training Monday at 9 a.m. in the AFRC (Bldg. 1105). For more information, call 449-0300.



Iraqi air force pilots conduct aeromedical evacuation mission

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq (AFNS)** — Iraqi airmen conducted an aeromedical evacuation mission from here Nov. 21, ferrying an Iraqi servicemember injured in combat from the Air Force Theater Hospital here to Forward Operating Base Gabe in Baqubah, Iraq.

“Aeromedical evacuation is crucial to the viability of the Iraqi air force,” said Col. (Dr.) Paul Young, the Coalition Air Forces Training Team surgeon general and director of Iraqi Air Forces Aeromedical Services Training. “We’re here in an advisory role to help the Iraqi air force create an aeromedical evacuation program that they’re comfortable with and one that works for them.”

The patient arrived at the hospital Nov. 16 with a gunshot

wound to his leg. Surgeons stabilized him and treated him in the intermediate care ward until he was ready to transport. An ambulance carried the patient to the flightline here, where American and Iraqi airmen loaded him into a waiting Mi-17 Hip helicopter.

This aeromedical evacuation mission follows a visit from two Iraq Ministry of Defense doctors to the hospital and to the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility here recently to study U.S. Air Force aeromedical evacuation procedures as the Iraqi air force continues to re-establish its own aeromedical evacuation service.

Army special-forces group to beddown at Eglin AFB

**WASHINGTON (AFNS)** — Air Force officials signed a record of decision that begins

Iraqis take charge of air evac



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Epley

**An Iraqi UH-1H Iroquois “Huey” helicopter and an Iraqi Mi-17 Hip helicopter prepare to transport a wounded Iraqi servicemember from Joint Base Balad, Iraq, to Forward Operating Base Gabe in Baqubah, Iraq, Nov. 21. The servicemember arrived at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Joint Base Balad Nov. 16 with a gunshot wound to his leg. The Iraqi air force is developing its aeromedical evacuation capabilities to take on a greater role in transporting its patients.**

the process for the Army’s 7th Special Forces Group to bed-down at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. The group will be located west of Duke Field and the range will be on the east and west side.

“This was truly a joint effort on the part of the Air Force and the Army to agree on the best possible location for this special-forces group,” said Kathy Ferguson, deputy assistant secretary for installations.

The cantonment area for the 7th SFG includes operations and maintenance facilities, housing, dining facilities, and munitions storage and loading facilities.

Accommodations for their training requirements include range space and airspace and scheduling for associated training missions.

The cantonment area will include facilities for three SF battalions, a motorized SF battalion, a group support battalion,

and the group headquarters. Approximately 5.1 million square feet of buildings and hard surfaces will be constructed from the year 2009 through 2011.

Most of the training will require the use of 13 ranges specifically designed for specific weapons training.

Either these ranges would need to be constructed or existing test areas would need to be reconfigured to provide the necessary facilities/assets, officials said. The training ranges are mandated by Army authorization, training and doctrinal documents for conventional army and special operations forces.

Lifesaving Airman, patient meet

**KUNSAN AIR BASE, South Korea (AFNS)** — A local South Korean woman and the Kunsan Air Base Airman

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connective tissue” across the national security space enterprise.

“Space is an interagency domain, and for decades, the United States, and Airmen in particular, have sought to be good stewards of it,” he said.

Secretary Donley spoke about the service’s space mission and its plan to reinvigorate its nuclear enterprise during the keynote address at the two-day AFA gathering, the final event during Air Force Week, a celebration held at three cities annually the past two years.

He provided an update on his proposal to establish the provisional Global Strike Command by the end of the year to provide singular focus on nuclear operations, and he briefly discussed a plan to

launch a numbered air force under Air Force Space Command to focus on cyber operations.

Speaking to an audience made up largely of officers from nearby Los Angeles Air Force Base, home to the Space and Missile Systems Center, Secretary Donley said the time is ripe to discuss how to better organize and manage the national security space enterprise.

In the Department of Defense, the Air Force secretary is designated as the executive agent for space, though four under secretaries and assistant secretaries reporting to the secretary of defense also retain oversight. The secretary of defense and under secretary of defense are the ultimate

decision makers in defense space matters, he said.

“Moving forward, my sense is that we need to forge a new path,” said Secretary Donley. “Space-based capabilities constitute joint, interagency and national interests. They are national assets. Our challenge is to find ways to streamline and strengthen interagency governance of the space enterprise.”

Air Force officials are taking a close look at the Department of Defense and interagency space management and organization to provide President-elect Obama’s administration “with a clear sense of the issues facing us today and their underlying root causes to lay the foundation for a well-informed discussion of the

issues,” he said.

Secretary Donley said the Air Force’s aging air and space fleets must be modernized.

“We need to ensure that we prudently field new systems to meet emerging requirements and replace hardware that is, in many cases, aging out,” he said. “This is perhaps most dramatic for our space systems, for which no service life extension or depot upgrades are possible.”

The secretary also said the new administration will have aircraft acquisition decisions to make regarding F-22 Raptor, C-17 Globemaster III and KC-X tanker development.

The nation’s space-borne early warning systems are critical, he said.

“They provide missile warn-

ing, while intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance satellites permit us insight into strategic intent. (They) contribute directly, and immeasurably, to the nation’s nuclear deterrence and to our awareness and understanding of global events,” he said.

The ability of Air Force specialists to collect weather and remote sensing data from space-based systems is also critical, he said.

Information from space systems supports a broad range of national missions, from disaster relief and humanitarian operations to targeting for precision strike,” he said.

Satellite communications allow Global Hawk, Predator and Reaper systems to be flown overseas by operators in

the continental U.S. They also permit the command and control of nuclear forces, he said.

About 10,000 Air Force space professionals ensure the viability and safety of Air Force on-orbit systems, tailoring space activities to the needs of national leaders and combatant commanders. More than 1,900 of them work in joint or interagency positions.

Airmen operate more than 120 satellites for a broad range of sister service, joint and interagency partners, whose appetite for space-based capabilities continue to increase, said Secretary Donley.

Funding for space systems has increased steadily since 2000 and now represents 11 percent of the Air Force budget.

Virtue may be its own reward, but ...



Photo by Senior Airman Gustavo Gonzalez

**You Jin Pak gives Airman Tamarias Pope a hug as they meet for the first time Nov. 21 at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea. Airman Pope donated AB negative blood which is rare among the South Korean population and specifically for Ms. Pak. The blood he donated ultimately saved her life.**

whose blood donation saved her life met for the first time when she visited here Nov. 21.

Airman Tamarias Pope of the 8th Security Forces Squadron met up with 22-year-old You Jin Pak, allowing the 19-year-old Airman to put a face to the person his lifesaving donation reached.

“Meeting her was a really good experience,” Airman Pope said. “Most people who give blood don’t really get to meet the person they saved. She looked healthy. She looked happy. That made me happy.”

Airman Pope’s role in helping Ms. Pak began Oct. 8 when Dr. Sung Kwang Park from the Chonbuk University Hospital in Jeonju, South Korea, called the 8th Medical Group here. Dr. Park had a patient in his care suffering from acute myeloid

leukemia. She had recently undergone a bone marrow transplant and was in urgent need of blood.

“Ms. Pak was in dire need of a blood transfusion,” said Capt. Kevin Blackney, assigned to the 8th Medical Group. “She had a rare blood type among the Korean population that was more common among Americans.”

After conducting a search of the wing’s medical records, Airman Pope was the first person identified with the matching blood type. Calls were made to Airman Pope’s squadron who contacted the

Airman at his dorm room. At the time, Airman Pope was off duty and sleeping but still quickly returned Captain Blackney’s call.

“He called back and within about five hours of his phone call he was up and donating blood at the Chonbuk University Hospital,” the captain said.

The first meeting between patient and Samaritan took place at the 8th SFS headquarters. Customary greetings and bows were exchanged as well as a more informal hug between two strangers whose lives became intertwined after a simple call for help.

Ms. Pak, her parents and Dr. Park were then given a quick tour of the base. They were shown around the security forces building before heading to an entry control point where Airman Pope explained some of his daily duties. The next stop on the tour was the 35th Fighter Squadron where Ms. Pak was fitted with a flight suit and jacket. The tour ended with a visit to the flightline where she got to see an F-16 Fighting Falcon up close and got to climb into the aircraft. *(By Senior Airman Gustavo Gonzalez, 8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs)*